INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

JAN 2 7 2003

Dear Sir:

Technology Center 2600

Applicants submit herewith, in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.98, the patents, publications and other information listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

The references submitted herewith are those of which Applicants are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and, with respect to which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56. While the references identified may be material to the examination of this application pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, the citation of these references is not intended to constitute an admission that any reference referred to herein is prior art to the invention of this application, unless specifically designated as such. Additionally, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that any search has been made or, that if made, such search was complete or exhaustive, or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56 exists.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(b)(3), this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before mailing of the first Office Action on the merits. Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on:

> January 21, 2003 (Date of Deposit)

Deborah Dean

(Name of the Person Making Deposit)

(Signature

patent office in a counterpart foreign application. A copy of the International Search Report for such counterpart foreign application is also attached hereto.

A list of the references is set forth on Form PTO-1449, which is enclosed herewith, along with a copy of each cited reference. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner return to Applicants a copy of the Form PTO-1449 indicating consideration of the references cited thereon.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due. If, however, it is determined that fees are owed, Applicants hereby authorize that such fees be charged to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 21, 2003

Registration No. 44,265

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